Masontown, Pa.

The church at Masontown is prospering. Our minister, George W. De Bolt, has been having a revival at East Riverside upon the banks of the Monongahela.

This is the property of Mrs. Jacobs, the wealthy widow of the late Adam Jacobs. The beautiful church in which Bro. De Bolt preached was erected by this Christian woman at her own expense. After kindly repeated requests, Bro. De Bolt consented to hold a series of meetings in this house. He preached nearly two weeks. East Riverside being ten miles away, I was not present, but I have heard that the people say they have never before had as good preaching, and that they came miles and miles to hear him, persons who had not been in church for years. I was there last Sabbath. The crowd was as large as any I have ever seen at German Baptist "Big Meeting," and certainly more attentive and respectful than many of them. After having preached from the text, "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water," Bro. De Bolt baptized seven. His sermon was learned, showing originality of thought and careful preparation. He proved face forward trine immersion by the Bible and by history; in the same manner disclosed the errors of sprinkling, pouring and single immersion. He said he did not want to hurt their feeling, but if they had "pet corns," and it would do them good, he would step on them with pleasure. He preaches fearlessly, nevertheless he has obtained the *sobriquet* of the "Pet Preacher."

Bro. H. R. Holsinger ordained Bro. George W. De Bolt June 11, 1886. He preached his first sermon July 4, 1886. During the year ending July 4, 1887, he preached 199 sermons. Of this number, 132 were revival sermons. He had 59 conversions and baptized 28 applicants. Including the seven baptized last Sunday, he has baptized 35 up to this writing. One of his converts has joined the Brethren Church, being baptized by another minister, and a few have connected themselves with other denominations, but there are many of them yet undecided, though almost persuaded to join the Brethren. He has taken in a few by relationship from the German Baptists, and baptized many from other churches. He has built up a membership for the Masontown congregation in two different places where our doctrine was unknown.

On Middle Run, where he now has a membership of 24, Bro. De Bolt is erecting a house for the worship of God. The people are liberal and the building is intended to be under roof in three days. They have never had a house for religious purposes, and the contractor said there was an excitable and happy time when the lumber was placed upon the ground to be put upon a neatly finished foundation 42x30. Bro. De Bolt has been lecturing all summer to help defray the expenses for this building. His subject is "Fettered and Free." The papers speak highly of it as being "humorous, entertaining and instructive." One of them says: "The speaker pictured the blessings of the individual freed from the vices and lusts of the world, and his high freedom after an emancipation from these. He then traced the growth of civil liberty, showing the advancement made in the ages, and the great step forward of our republican institutions over the monarchical governments of the world. The lecture abounds in real and wholesome humor, and some vivid descriptions." I have heard this lecture once myself, and would not write thus, were it not worthy my approval. Bro. De Bolt intends dedicating the new church in September. The good work is increasing the workers.

M. M. Sterling.

Interesting Time in Somerset County, Pa.

Dear Evangelist:—Through the kind providence of our heavenly Father the brethren of the Berlin, Somerset and Stony Creek congregations of Somerset Co., Pa., were permitted to enjoy their semi-annual feasts of love all of which were largely attended both by spectators and members. Our first feast was held at the "Trent" meeting house in the Somerset church, at this meeting we had no assistance except Bro. W. L. Stahl who came to us on the evening of the feast, but we had an enjoyable and pleasant season with this little band of zealous active brethren. At Berlin, Bro. J. L. Kimmel late of Ashland College preached for us on Friday a very acceptable sermon, and on Saturday evening Bro. Mason, of Ohio, and Bro. Hildebrand, of Iowa, late of Ashland College came to our meeting, and Bro. Mason gave us one of his soul stirring discourses. On Sunday morning Bro. Hildebrand preached for us a highly appreciated self-examination sermon. In the evening we met for the observance of the ordinances of God's house. All the tables well filled and we enjoyed a grand feast of love. There were present Bros. Mason, Hildebrand, Kimmel, Stahl, and our dear Bro. W. A. Seibert, who lives in the Berlin church and of whom we hear so little and yet we ought to hear so much, for he has so many natural gifts and qualities essential to a successful minister of the gospel. And yet I have often been made to think when I see him (Bro. Seibert) in the Berlin Sabbath School in charge of the infant department, and notice how interested he has that score or more of plastic little minds before him, and how they hear and answer scripture questions, that perhaps he is doing more for the Master's cause and kingdom than we who regularly occupy the sacred stand. God bless the active earnest Sabbath school teachers all over this land of ours is my prayer.

Bro. Mason preached Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night in Berlin and on Thursday night began in the Stony Creek church. Friday night Bro. Hildebrand told us what we must do to be saved. Saturday evening Mason served us while Hildebrand and Kimmel ministered to the faithful at Trents, and on Sunday morning Bro. Mason gave us the most practical and never to be forgotten self-examination sermon we ever heard. In the evening before feet washing, your unworthy servant was surprised in more than one way, but one of the ways was by being presented in the presence of all the congregation with the most precious gift in the world, a copy of "the peerless edition of the parallel Bible containing the authorized and revised versions of the Old and New Testaments, arranged in parallel columns, complete concordance, comprehensive Bible dictionary, etc.," with over three hundred additional features to help in the study of God's word, all bound in one handsome giltedge morocco volume, elegant enough for the library of a grander. In the book lies a beautiful silk and satin book mark (the work of a good sister of the Berlin church) bearing on the one side in old English letters the motto, "Preach the Word" and on the other side the monogram, J. H. K. The presentation plate in said volume reads, "Presented to John H. Knepper, by the Berlin, Stony Creek and Somerset churches, July 3rd, 1887, at his ordination." Let me say right here, God bless you all my dear brethren for this precious gift, precious as God's gift to man, precious as your gift to your pastor, and may my life and conduct by the help of God always be such as will merit your esteem and meet the approbation of our Savior is my humble petition.

Bro. Mason officiated for us at the Stony Creek feast and we were favored with the presence of Bros. Hildebrand, Kimmel, Stahl and Miller. Bro. Miller is a minister living in the Stony Creek church who is not actively engaged in the ministry from the pulpit, but who preaches many valuable sermons by his Christian deportment, exemplary life and kind assistance he is always ready to render. He is also an active Sabbath School superintendent, and thus is doing much good for the Master. We have had a harvest of fat things and feel good. Thank God, let us take courage. Bros. Mason and Hildebrand in their short visit made many warm and lasting friends. May the Father's blessings follow them wherever they go, and may we also live that in the end of time here we may all meet in heaven.

John H. Knepper.

Shanksville, Pa., July 7, 1887.

Milford, Ind.

Having my dinner dishes washed, I sat down this beautiful Sabbath afternoon to read the paper, when the thought came into my mind, why cannot I try and write a piece for the paper. I may have a friend some where who will be glad to see that I am working a little for the good cause of Christ. I belong to the Brethren church in Milford, having united under R. F. Mallott's preaching. We have a nice church, a good class of active members, and a good minister. Bro. J. A. Ridenour preaches for us every two weeks. We have Sunday School every Sabbath, prayer-meeting every Tuesday evening, singing every Friday evening, and children's meeting on Saturday afternoon. So you see we are up and doing.

We had a Sunday School picnic in the grove south of town last Thursday, which was a success in every particular. Bro. H. R. Holsinger being present, favored us with an interesting chat to the little folks. So did Bro. Ridenour, Rev. Black, and Prof. Casper.

Well, this being my first contribution, I will close for fear I will weary our readers with my uninteresting letter.

Mrs. Nina E. Becknell.

Sherwood, Ohio.

We were once more made glad in the Lord by enjoying another season of worship together. We met at the house of Eld. Isaac Stuckman's Saturday evening July 9, for prayer and social worship. On Sunday we had meeting at the school house at 3 p. m. After services we repaired to the water side where one soul was buried with Christ in baptism and arose to walk in newness of life. So the work is still moving on in this part of the vineyard. We came home in the evening and things did not look so pleasant. Fire broke out in our little town and one whole square, except two dwellings, was destroyed.

Abraham Shoe.

From Tiosa, Ind.

Once more in the progress of time, the providence of God, and the course of events, I find myself in a new field of labor. This time I am at Tiosa, Ind., with an arrangement to remain till the first of Oct., next. I arrived here on the first of July, and took up my temporary abode at the home of Bro. Jacob Miller, half a mile east of town, where I am now writing. He and his Christian family have been very kind to me, as they are disposed to be to all, according to our creed.

In Pennsylvania, I bade farewell to my dear, old mother, my sisters and brother, June 29th, and came as far as Mansfield, Ohio, where I lodged for the night. The next day was spent at Ashland, mostly at the College broading hall, enjoying the hospitality and the Christian fellowship of Bro. Thomas Fultz and his family, with whom I had become well and favorably acquainted, years ago, in Southern Ohio. I also visited at the Evangelist office, at Bro. Bailey's book concern, and at Bro. H. K. Myer's home, where also I met Bro. A. A. Cober. My time was too limited at Ashland to do much in any way, but as I hoped to get to the convention there in Sept., I submitted the more cheerfully. What, now, if there should be no convention at Ashland?

I may be permitted to say that I brought with me, from Ashland, a box of books.—The Jewish Passover and the Lord's Supper—which I would like to sell at once. See advertisement.

I am now in the field fomerly tilled by Bro. J. W. Fitzgerald. He certainly sowed good seed, which is producing good wheat; but while he slept (figuratively,) the enemy was at work sowing tares, and now this once lovely and promising field presents a sorrowful appearance. By the grace of God, we will do the best we can, laboring in the hope of good results in the harvest. We do not propose to pull up the tares; but will try to cultivate and fertilize the wheat that the darnel may be smothered, if possible. Pray for us, brethren and sisters, so that love, peace harmony and prosperity may be restored the Brethren church at Tiosa.

We have a good Sunday school, and two sermons every Lord's day. As far as I have visited the members, I find a good desire and purpose, and I am hopeful, at least, I am not without hope,—that a reconciliation may be effected. Of this, more hereafter.

J. W. Beer.

July 13th, 1887.

Convention Thoughts.

The editor's suggestions in No. 28 relative to the coming convention are timely and to the point. The Ministerial Aid Association if established, and supported, would be a source of great encouragement to many of our dear brethren that are neglecting home and business interests for the church, and the salvation of souls.

A General Church Building Association is a necessity that we fully appreciate in Philadelphia at present. The twenty-five cents of two thousand members sent to us in the next thirty days would insure the completion of a church building in this city in less than a year. An Orphan's Home would be another grand enterprize but not as much of an immediate necessity as the other two mentioned. There are non-sectarian institutions that will look after orphans much more readily than they will after the superannuated preachers and church buildings of our particular church.

But, before we can successfully enter into these noble enterprises, we must have a more clearly defined church government. A church constitution and by-laws ought to engage the attention of our scholars and thinkers prior to anything else concerning the work of the convention. This will include the basis of representation, the time for holding conventions, the degrees (if any) of the ministry, the provision of a board of control, or some authorized head to manage at least the financial affairs of the general church, and other matters that circumstances will suggest. A free interchange of thought upon these matters prior to the convention will largely prepare the work to be done.

Jacob C. Cassel.

Philadelphia Items.

The regular quarterly council of our church was held on Tuesday evening, July 12th. Eld. J. D. McFaden was chosen to represent us at the convention, and a committee appointed to prepare the suggestions of our church to the convention. This we think every church ought to do, so that the work of the convention can not be looked upon as the work of a few but the combined work of the whole church.

We did not get a very complete report from our building committee, but the report as made shows a subscription of over five hundred dollars toward the building fund. This was the first report, and not a bad one when all the circumstances are considered.

Jacob C. Cassel.

1207 Columbia Ave., Phil., Pa.

Response from Brush Valley, Pa.

Having seen a request through the Evangelist for responses from the different churches of Penna., in regard to evangelistic work, we, the brethren of Brush Valley do agree to put fourth our greatest effort to establish a mission fund in Pennsylvania. For that purpose we are ready to respond financially, when a plan is adopted.

By order of the Church.

J. A. Hooks, Clerk.